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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

Austin L. Porterfield, Guest Editor

Professor V. A. Leonard is on a year's leave from the State College at Pullman, Washington. During the period he will pursue graduate studies in Ohio State University.

In the meantime Professor Porterfield will be Guest Editor of this section. He is Chairman of the Department of Sociology in Texas Christian University, and author of two books: *Creative Factors in Scientific Research* (Duke University Press, 1941) and *Youth in Trouble: Studies in Delinquency and Despair with Plans for Prevention* (Fort Worth: Leo Potishman Foundation, 1946). He has written a number of articles for various sociological journals. His chief interests are in the field of criminology, personality, and the family.—EDITOR.

Abstract

The Treatment of a Chronic Case of Exhibitionism by Means of the Autobiographic Method of Analysis—Exhibitionists constitute a very difficult problem for treatment in the prison inasmuch as only a few are willing to face their deviation honestly. However, when there is a sincere effort to overcome the abnormal pattern much can be accomplished. Analysis by the autobiographical method lends itself, especially, as an approach with the more intelligent prisoners. The subject of this study, a young man of 24, (I.Q. 110), was committed to the Detroit House of Correction on a term of six months to one year for Indecent Exposure. He had been in the habit of exposing himself and masturbating before women on the street almost daily for several years. He had received psychiatric treatment before incarceration for one year and a half without success. In the prison he requested treatment and wrote, on instruction, an autobiography of close to 170 pages which was used as a systematic basis for a psychological analysis of the origin and development of the exhibitionistic pattern. The autobiography served, chiefly, for reducing the number of hours necessary for treatment by making the subject do before-hand much of the reminiscing which he would otherwise do in the course of interviews.

The treatment was based on the following assumption: The exhibitionistic pattern in this case, as in a great many cases, is practically an automatic behavior pattern. It is, therefore, unconscious in motivation and not open to the conscious direction of the will. To destroy this automatism it is necessary, in accordance with Dunlap's theories, to make the unconscious motivation conscious. This in turn can best be accomplished by tracing historically, together with the individual, the evolution of this pattern, and by helping him acquire insight into the real meaning of his deviant behavior. The automatism is overcome by placing its component elements into the focus of consciousness.

The analysis in this case disclosed that the exhibitionistic pattern originated from extremely severe punishment imposed upon the subject by his generally domineering mother for innocent sex plays he engaged in at the tender ages of nine and ten which involved disrobing before little girls. The punishment, (long periods of isolation from play with other children), had a very significant result. It established the act of exposing his sex organs as a strongly charged pleasure principle, that is, it made the child aware of his ability to seriously upset and arouse his mother through this act and prompted him to utilize it as a weapon with which to inflict punishment upon her at any time her discipline became oppressive. The analysis also disclosed that, later in life, the subject transformed this same pleasure principle into

a generalized source of pleasure, (that is, he gradually divorced the exhibitionistic act from the specific meaning it had for him against his mother), and reverted to it as an escape on various occasions when he suffered serious emotional disturbances or set-backs of any sort, having little to do with sex proper.

The case was followed up for one year and a half after termination of the treatment. The subject, as far as it was possible to establish, has fully succeeded in exerting control over his desires to exhibit himself though he is still annoyed by occasional fantasies concerning it. He is now married and the owner of a lucrative business.

The writer does not intend to make a dogmatic statement to the effect that exhibitionism is always the result of undue punishment inflicted upon children for innocent juvenile exhibitionism, but he believes that this may be one causal hypothesis among others which is worthy of further exploration.—Maurice Floch, Clinical Psychologist, Detroit House of Correction, Plymouth, Mich.

Prewar-Postwar Crime Trends—The first half of 1946, according to *Uniform Crime Reports* (Volumes XVI, No. 1 and XVII, No. 1) was marked by an increase of 13.0 per cent in the number of offenses known to the police over the first six months of 1945. Crime rates for the first half of 1945 surpassed those of the preceding year in the less marked degree of 8.4 per cent for the corresponding period.

To get at the idea of trends, however, it is desirable to compare more specific data for 1945 and 1946 with data for two earlier periods as found in the same source. These earlier periods are 1931-1934, the heart of the depression, and 1941-1944, the heart of World War II. These data may be arrayed as follows.

Offense	Percentage of Change 1931-34 to 1941-44	Percentage of Change	
		1945* over 1944*	1946* over 1945*
All offenses		+ 8.4	+13.0
Murder and non- negligent homicide	—16.4	+ 4.3	+28.5
Robbery	—37.2	+10.0	+31.8
Manslaughter, negligent	—11.6	— 1.6	+19.2
Burglary	—12.3	+12.1	+17.0
Auto theft	—38.6	+ 4.6	+15.5
Aggravated assault	+22.6	+11.3	+10.0
Larceny	+14.9	+ 7.9	+ 9.8
Rape	+82.0	+ 9.0	+ 1.6

* First six months of the year.

Whatever the factors involved, serious crimes against persons except rape decreased from the depression to the period of the War, and serious crimes against property also decreased except for larceny. In spite of a great deficit in the number of marriages which under normal circumstances would have occurred from 1931 to 1934, serious sex offenses, if rape is an index, increased tremendously during the war period over the former period. There was also a marked increase in aggravated assault.

Before the War was over the trend had changed sharply upward in crimes both against property and persons. This change occurred at a time when there was a maximum number of young men in the military and overseas. Since VJ Day this trend has become very great. It will

be important to watch further developments whether we do or do not move into a depression. Perhaps some student will undertake to discover through adequately controlled observation more specifically the differential crime trends in war and postwar periods among civilians and persons in the military. In the last issue of this *Journal* Michael Hakeem took a first step in this direction in his article "Service in the Armed Forces and Criminality."

White Collar Criminality—Important at this point are Professor Edwin H. Sutherland's studies in "White Collar Criminality," which are still under way according to a research announcement in the *American Sociological Review* for August, 1946. The prevalence of this type of crime is one factor which makes it very difficult to get at either the amount or trends of crime even through the *Uniform Crime Reports*. War time crimes, for example, of the white collar variety were, as suggested by the findings of the Mead Committee, apparently numerous, costing the United States lives in battle and huge sums of money in taxes. But such crimes whether in peace or war do not belong in the category of "offenses known to the police."

Other Research Projects—Some other current research projects the outcome of which may be of real interest to criminologists are reported by Michael Hakeem from his vantage point at the Illinois State Penitentiary, by Alfred C. Schnur at Miami University, and by Dick Jay at Texas Christian University.

Hakeem has three studies under way. The first is "A Comparison of Sentencing Practices of Judges and a Parole Board." The second is "A Study of the Validity of the Burgess Method of Parole Prediction." The third attempts "An Evaluation of Case Reports Prepared by Psychiatrists in Penal and Correctional Institutions and Setups of Various Types."

Schnur is examining "The Relation of Previous Criminal Records to Subsequent Criminal Behavior." Jay is studying "Delinquency and Crime in Court, College, and the Military."

Report of the Federal Bureau of Prisons—The Federal Bureau of Prisons of which James V. Bennett is the Director has released this year a report called *Federal Prisons 1945*. It reviews the work of the Federal Bureau of Prisons during the year ending June 30, 1945 and includes statistics of federal prisoners and of federal parole selection and supervision. It was printed at the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas in 1946.

Special Characteristics of Military Prisoners and Their Sentences—According to Director Bennett's report (*Federal Prisons 1945*, pp. 6-8), military prisoners and the sentences given them have some special characteristics. "Our military prisoners have been of special concern to us," he says, "but not because they have tended particularly to be troublesome, or disciplinary problems. As a matter of fact, they generally make good institution records. We have been concerned rather because of the special characteristics of these offenders and their sentences. Most of them are young: the median age of military prisoners in Federal institutions at the end of the year was just under 25 years, or approximately 5 years less than that of the prisoners from civil courts. Although many were convicted of such offenses as murder, robbery, and rape, most of them as civilians had never been in serious trouble. Many are in fact casualties of the war and had they

not been subjected to the peculiar stresses of war would have remained respectable law-abiding citizens. The sentences of military prisoners are long; as has been mentioned, the average for those received in Federal institutions this year was nearly 14½ years. Sixty per cent had sentences of 10 years or longer and 217 had life sentences . . . The Secretary of War has been aware of the tendency of courts-martial to mete out long and severe sentences and of the inconsistency which marks the sentencing methods of military courts. He has established a board to review these sentences, set standards of punishment and recommend clemency to deserving cases."

Federal Ratings of City and County Jails—The deplorable condition existing in city and county jails is shown by data appearing in *Federal Prisons 1945* (p. 81), where the latest ratings of jails as inspected by the Bureau of Prisons is given. Only 5 jails in the entire nation were 80 per cent standard or above. In fact 80.8 per cent of all jails inspected were under 50 per cent standard. The present writer, on the basis of the data given, has ranked the states by quartiles on the per cent of jails within them rating under 50 per cent. The percentage of distribution for the lowest and highest quartiles is given below.

Lowest Quartile: Fewest Jails Rating Under 50 Per Cent Standard			Highest Quartile: Most Jails Rating Under 50 Per Cent Standard		
Rank	State	Per cent Rating under 50%	Rank	State	Per cent Rating under 50%
1	Mass.	6.7	37	Texas	86.5
2	N. J.	14.8	38	S. C.	87.7
3	N. Y.	19.4	39	Nebr.	88.6
4	Conn.	40.0	40	N. D.	88.7
5	N. H.	50.0	41	Ark.	89.8
6	Me.	50.0	42	Tenn.	91.6
7	Dela.	50.0	43	Colo.	91.7
8	Ariz.	53.0	44	Mo.	91.7
9	Penn.	53.6	45	Miss.	92.4
10	Cal.	58.3	46	Ga.	93.6
11	N. M.	61.3	47	La.	94.1
12	Ohio	72.7	48	Ky.	96.0

Not too much is being done currently to awaken the public to the conditions that exist in jails that make them so far below Federal and human standards.

An Experiment in Group Therapy—Isaac Jolles, who is Staff Psychologist for the Department of Public Instruction in Illinois, reports an interesting experiment in group therapy which he conducted at the Indiana State Prison in the summer and fall of 1945 (See his article: "An Experiment in Group Therapy for Adult Offenders," *Federal Probation*, April-June, 1946). This experiment was in the nature of two courses in criminology given to select groups of prisoners. The courses ran for twelve weeks, meeting one hour per week.

Attention given to the conflicts existing between in-groups and out-groups produced "much of a therapeutic value . . . when an inmate came to the realization that he must change his sense of values if he would become a part of the socially-conforming group. It was by this means that the inmate was able to see himself as he really was, a degree of insight which is so essential to the rehabilitation of the antisocial personality."

The discussion of case histories, in the first course given, "stimulated more than anything else an inmate's thinking in terms of his own case history and personality difficulties." This experience led to the presentation of inmate case histories through the instructor in the second course given and to more psychological analysis. Through these courses, Dr. Jolles came to the conclusion that "there is some evidence to indicate a therapeutic value in teaching criminology to criminals." At least, he believes that "further experimentation on this problem is warranted."

Will Execution of Nazi War Criminals Be Ineffective?—The execution of the leading Nazis at Nuremberg after the long drawn-out trials on October 16, some thoughtful writers believe, is likely to achieve almost exactly nothing in the prevention of war. In an article in the *American Sociological Review* (August, 1946), Donald R. Taft takes such a position. In fact, he affirms that "punishment of war criminals will increase the probability of World War III."

"Punishment," Professor Taft continues, "fails when the potential criminal feels that the punishers are themselves criminals." It is "apt to be ineffective when inflicted by those who are not the 'peers' of the punished." It is "ineffective when the pain inflicted is less impelling than the social approval created by the criminal act." It is also "ineffective if many committing similar acts escape punishment"; or "when the punished are supported by a gang"; or "when it expresses the hatred of the punisher"; or "is in practice moralistic rather than scientific." Since all these conditions prevail in the condemnation and execution or imprisonment of the Nazi leaders, Professor Taft thinks the outcomes are likely to be the opposite of the professed motives.

Leo Potishman Foundation—Leo Potishman, a Fort Worth business man, has provided funds for the publication of a series of studies in the social sciences. An organization under the name, Leo Potishman Foundation has been set up at Texas Christian University to administer these funds and to publish various studies. The first work to appear under its auspices is a book that falls in the field of criminology, the present writer's *Youth in Trouble*, which carries the subtitle, *Studies in Delinquency and Despair with Plans for Prevention*. This book came off the press on September 17, 1946.

Population Trends in New York Prisons—Significant decreases in the population of New York prisons, according to the Report of the State Department of Correction for 1945, have taken place during the last few years. The data was transmitted to the legislature early in 1946 by Commissioner John A. Lyons and is now available. Since the peak of 18,400 in 1940, the average daily population has decreased to 14,894, or a decrease of 3,506. The average daily population of 14,894 is a decrease for the present reporting period of 403 from average daily attendance of 15,297 for the last reporting period. All of the prisons, with the exception of Wallkill, show slight decreases this year. The State Hospitals, Napanoch and Woodbourne, also had smaller average populations. Increases were recorded at Wallkill, Elmira, Westfield Reformatory, Woodbourne and the New York State Vocational Institution. The New York State Vocational Institution, where the average daily attendance rose from 543 to 680, or an increase of 137, had first place. The trend in the reformatory type institutions is definitely upward. This trend, no doubt will accelerate with the

termination of the war. The trend in population over the past five years is evident from the following table showing the population on the last day of the reporting periods:

	POPULATION	DECREASE
June 30, 1941.....	18,064	260
June 30, 1942.....	17,198	866
March 31, 1943.....	15,685	1,513
March 31, 1944.....	14,993	690
March 31, 1945.....	14,701	292

This year is probably the last year of the downward trend for the department for a while. Present indications are to the effect that the populations of the reformatory type of institutions will continue to rise and within the next year or two, the present facilities will reach the saturation point.

The legislation passed at the last session of the legislature providing for the establishment of a Reception Center to which all male offenders between the ages of 16 and 21 will be committed for study, classification and transfer provides flexibility whereby the size of populations in the reformatory type institutions may be regulated to some extent.